REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-27 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 18 are independent. In the Office Action dated October 3, 2006, Claims 16, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Following this response, Claims 1-26 and 28-29 remain in this application with Claim 28-29 being added by this Amendment and Claim 27 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I.   Interview Summary

Applicants thank Examiner Long for the courtesy of a telephone interview on December 8, 2006, requested by the undersigned to discuss the rejection of the current claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. During the interview, Applicants asserted that the currently cited references do not anticipate the currently claimed subject matter. No agreement was made regarding patentability of the claims.

II.   Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 16, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 16 and 26 have been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection of 16 and 26 and add no new matter. Claim 27 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering this rejection of Claim 27 moot.

III.   Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Outlook 2000 In a Nutshell: A Power User's Quick Reference ("*Syroid*"). Claims 1 and 18 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection and add no new matter.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "the context corresponding to a user selecting an electronic mail message." Amended Claim 18 includes a similar recitation. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least on page 9, line 7 through page 10, line 26.

In contrast, *Syroid* at least does not disclose the aforementioned recitations. For example, *Syroid* merely discloses that rule-based sorting allows a user to automatically sort and manage large e-mail volumes by applying conditional rules to incoming messages. (*See* page 244, lines 27-29.) The rules in *Syroid* can be simple ("Move all mail arriving from Joe Smith to my Followup folder") or complex ("Move all mail arriving from Joe Smith to my Followup folder if X is in the subject line and it is not CCed to Mary Smith"). (*See* page 244, lines 29-32.) The simplest and most effective way to construct an e-mail rule, according to *Syroid*, is for the user to think about what to manipulate and how. (*See* page 244, lines 32-33.) If the user in *Syroid* can put a rule into words and if the appropriate destination folders, conditions, and actions exist, then the user can create the rule. (*See* page 244, lines 33-35.) In *Syroid*, identifying a context in which a request to create an electronic message handling rule was received is not discloses. Consequently, at least because *Syroid* does not disclose identifying such a context, *Syroid* does not disclose the context corresponding to a user selecting a

current message. Rather *Syroid* merely discloses automatically sorting and managing e-mail volumes by applying conditional rules to incoming messages. In short, *Syroid* is silent regarding customizing a user interface based a context comprising, for example, metadata or an operation associated with an electronic mail message.

Syroid does not anticipate the claimed invention because *Syroid* at least does not disclose "the context corresponding to a user selecting an electronic mail message," as recited by amended Claim 1. Amended Claim 18 includes a similar recitation. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 18 each patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 1 and 18.

Dependent Claims 2-17 and 19-26 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1 and 18, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-17 and 19-26.

IV.   New Claims

Claims 28-29 have been added to more distinctly define and to round out the protection for the invention to which Applicants are entitled. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over the cited art and that they add no new matter.

V.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the

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pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.
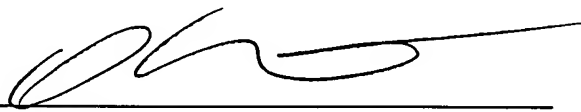
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
404.954.5066

Date: January 19, 2007

DKS:mdc

D. Kent Stier
Reg. No. 50,640

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